



Notes from the Director

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No

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TELEVISION FILMING

On May 23rd we began some television filming here in the Headquarters building. The occasion will be a segment of "60 Minutes," for CBS. I realize this is the first time this has happened, and that it will be somewhat disruptive to many of you while the filming is going on. But I want to assure you that the filming is taking place under closely controlled conditions, with due respect for the security problems involved.

I consider this an important precedent. I believe that the American people, with due recognition for the need to keep secrets in the intelligence community, have an interest and a right to know something of intelligence in government—the environment in which we work, the kinds of things we do, and our important contribution to the government and its processes. The "60 Minutes" program has a large viewing audience—some 40 million people. My hope is that this will give us an opportunity to get some of our message across: that intelligence is vital to our country's security, including an appropriate measure of secrecy, and that those of us in the intelligence business are just as dedicated to the principles and ideals of our democracy as any American.

PRESIDENT CARTER ON INTELLIGENCE

Last month at the White House, I briefed the Cabinet and senior staff members of the White House and their spouses on the Central Intelligence Agency and the Intelligence Community. The President took that opportunity to make some extemporaneous comments about intelligence and the Agency which I would like to share with you. Following are excerpts from the remarks by President Carter:

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"First of all I would like to thank Stan for giving us this good briefing and thank all of you for coming. I, like many of you, before I became

President and I have been deeply concerned about the reputation of the CIA and the entire Intelligence Community, and also was concerned about the professionalism of them. But I can tell you without hesitation that since I have been in the White House and been responsible for our nation's security above everyone else, I have been highly impressed by the competence and objectivity and the ability of the Intelligence Community to give me accurate and unbiased analyses that were important to me and to other members of the Cabinet."

"I can also tell you that I have looked at all the analyses made by the Intelligence Oversight Board for the last 12 months after the revelations were made by the Congressional investigations and I think I'm completely accurate in saying there are absolutely no illegalities being perpetrated by the CIA, there are no improprieties being perpetrated by the CIA."

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"I think if all Americans knew what I know about the present function of the Intelligence Community, there would be an alleviation of concern and it's nothing at all to be ashamed of."

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"It's absolutely crucial that we maintain a capability for covert action . . . In case we ever should find ourselves in a state of conflict with another nation, we've got to have an instant ability to address that question."

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"I have a much surer sense of making right decisions about our own national security because of my growing trust in the capability of the CIA and the other intelligence counsels."

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"I think that all of you can rest assured that except in the rare occasions there won't be any illegalities, and even those will be instantly punished when detected. There's not anything going on that if you knew about it you'd be ashamed of."

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The President also spoke of the importance of biographical data that has been supplied to him by the Agency, the importance of our ability to monitor the implementation of SALT, and our reporting on terrorism.

INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY REORGANIZATION

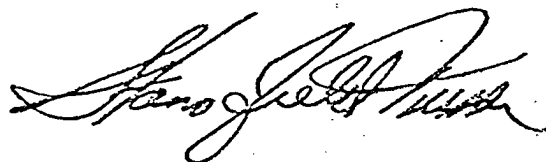
There have been articles in the newspapers recently concerning the intent of the Senate Select Committee on intelligence to propose some important organizational changes in the Intelligence Community. As many of you know,

there is also a study going on concurrently in the Executive Branch of the Government to the same end. I would like to assure all members of the Agency of two things:

1. No final decisions have been made by either the President or the Congress.
2. In my view, the role of the CIA will be just as essential to our intelligence operations after any reorganization as before.

There are several objectives in the reorganization proposals. One is to ensure that the authority of the Director of Central Intelligence is commensurate with his responsibilities. Another is to codify the basic rules within which the CIA and the other intelligence agencies must operate. I look on both of these as steps which will strengthen both the Agency and the national intelligence effort.

The entire review process is indicative of the increased attention which both the Executive and Legislative Branches of our Government are giving to intelligence operations today. In my view, this attention stemmed in part from the numerous investigations of the past several years, but it is now the result of an enhanced recognition of the importance of intelligence to our country, which was a side benefit of those investigations. I believe that we can only be strengthened by this increased attention and interest.



STANSFIELD TURNER
Director